

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An interchangeable footwear system comprising
 - (a) at least a portion of a sole and
 - (b) interchangeable covers

in which said covers fit to said portion of said sole for respectively forming assemblies changing appearances and use environments of said assemblies,
wherein said covers respectively comprise uninterrupted sheaths open at undersides
and having continuous lower edges.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 1
wherein said sole portion is provided with an upwardly extending perimeter rim portion.
4. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 3
wherein said upwardly extending perimeter rim portion is provided with a first mating element.
5. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 4
wherein said interchangeable covers are provided with respective second mating elements along lower perimeter of said covers,

6. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 5 wherein said first mating element is female.

7. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 5 wherein said first mating element is male.

8. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 5 wherein said second mating element is male.

9. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 5 wherein said second mating element is female.

10. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 9 wherein said first and second mating elements are substantially V-shaped in section.

11. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 10 wherein said V-shaped sections of said mating elements are provided with matching protrusions and recesses so as to provide a snap-fit when said covers are assembled to said sole portion.

12. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 11 wherein other sole portions are provided in a range of shapes and sizes.

13. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 12 wherein said covers are provided in a matching range of shapes and sizes adapted to fit said sole portions.
14. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 13 wherein said covers are provided in a range of colours and patterns.
15. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 1 wherein said sole portion and said covers are made from any of a selection of materials, said selection including leather, canvas, rubber, plastic and other synthetic materials.
16. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 1 wherein a one of said covers includes an indicia-receiving portion.
17. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of Claim 16 wherein said indicia-receiving portion is adapted to display promotional indicia.
18. (previously presented) A method of altering the appearance of a shoe, said method comprising utilising the interchangeable footwear system of claim 1.
19. (previously presented) The interchangeable footwear system of Claim 1, wherein the sole comprises an outsole.

20. (new) An interchangeable footwear system comprising a shoe assembly

including

- (a) at least a sole portion
- (b) interchangeable covers

in which any one of a plurality of said covers are adapted to allow fitting to said at least a sole portion forming an assembly so as to change the appearance and use environment of said shoe assembly, and

wherein each of said covers comprises an uninterrupted sheath open at its underside and having a continuous lower edge.